

Warriors' D keys win

Righetti girls roll past Duarte. **SPORTS, PAGE D1**



Pennies for park

Lompoc boys raise money for playground swings. **CENTRAL COAST, B1**



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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018

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FRANK COWAN PHOTOS, CONTRIBUTOR

Rep. Salud Carbajal, D-Santa Barbara, right, speaks with Stephen Vines, of San Luis Obispo, during a celebration of Black History Month at Pioneer Park in Santa Maria on Saturday.

‘Are you up for the struggle?’

Black History Month celebrated Saturday in Pioneer Park

GINA KIM
gkim@leecentralcoastnews.com

Black History Month celebrants were asked one important question Saturday at Pioneer Park in Santa Maria: “Are you up for the struggle?”

“We want to bring the community together today for a tradition that we hold every year to not just celebrate black history, but to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who established Black History Month,” said Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt, president of the Santa Maria-Lompoc NAACP. “We also want to remind people that it’s not just the month of February where we celebrate it, but rather, every day.”

Event organizers came up with this year’s slogan, “Moving for-



Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt, president of the Santa Maria/Lompoc NAACP chapter, shows where to register during a celebration of Black History Month at Pioneer Park in Santa Maria on Saturday.

ward: Are you up for the struggle?,” after realizing that voter’s rights, women’s reproductive rights, immigrant protection and the environment are still under attack, Lyons-Pruitt said.

“Unfortunately, I don’t think

our nation has made any progress. We’re going backwards.”

Several local organizations, including CAUSE, Democratic Club of Santa Maria Valley, Lompoc Valley, AGIF Education Foundation, United Domestic

Workers union, the NAACP, the Girl Scouts of America and Hancock College, provided informational pamphlets, services, membership sign-up lists and other resources to help educate the public.

“We have a gamut of organizations here in order to educate the community, because we want people to get involved,” Lyons-Pruitt said.

Saturday’s keynote speaker Congressman Salud Carbajal encouraged the crowd to fight against the national revival in racist sentiment that African-Americans and other activists had fought so hard against for centuries.

“At times, it can feel like our nation takes two steps forward and one step back, especially when it comes to progress for our marginalized communities,” Carbajal said. “It’s easy to

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Adviser: Evidence exists of meddling

DESMOND BUTLER AND DAVID RISING
Associated Press

MUNICH — President Donald Trump’s national security adviser said Saturday there was “incontrovertible” evidence of a Russian plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. election, a blunt statement that shows how significantly the new criminal charges leveled by an American investigator have upended the political debate over his inquiry.

The statement by H.R. McMaster at the Munich Security Conference stood in stark contrast to Trump’s oft repeated claim that Russian interference in his election victory was a hoax.

“As you can see with the FBI indictment, the evidence is now really incontrovertible and available in the public domain,” McMaster told a Russian delegate to the conference.

The detailed document presented the most compelling public evidence to date that the Russian operation was elaborate, expensive and real. Citing emails and conversations by the perpetrators of the plot, it also demonstrated that the ongoing probe may have access to explosive intelligence material gathered on the Russian operations.

McMaster also noted that special counsel Robert Mueller’s team had shown that the U.S. was becoming “more and more adept at tracing the origins of this espionage and subversion.”

Just minutes before, Russian

Please see **RUSSIA**, Page A6

Overall, county funds ‘in the black’

Two individual funds over budget at end of second quarter

MIKE HODGSON
mhodgson@leecentralcoastnews.com

Santa Barbara County’s coffers overall are in the black as of Dec. 31, the end of the second fiscal quarter, although two individual departments were over budget, according to the financial status report delivered Tuesday.

But the impacts of the Thomas fire and the 1/9 Montecito Debris Flow have yet to hit, and in addition to direct costs of dealing with the two disasters, county officials are expecting a second blow from related plunges in property, sales and transient occupancy taxes.

“The good news is that 66 of 68 departments and funds are either positive or at budget,” said Jeff Frapwell, assistant chief executive officer and director of budget and research.

He noted the General Fund is

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Florida takes gun protest to the streets

JASON DEAREN, ALLEN G. BREED AND TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — Thousands of angry students, parents, teachers and neighbors of a Florida high school where 17 people were killed demanded Saturday that immediate action be taken on gun-control legislation, insisting they would not relent until their demands were met.

The rallies in Fort Lauderdale and St. Petersburg gave a political outlet to the growing feelings of rage and mourning sparked by the carnage. Authorities say a former student who had been

expelled, had mental health issues and been reported to law enforcement, used a legally purchased semiautomatic rifle to kill students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

“Because of these gun laws, people that I know, people that I love, have died, and I will never be able to see them again,” Delaney Tarr, a student at the school, told the crowd swamping the steps and courtyard at the federal courthouse in Fort Lauderdale, about 25 miles from Parkland.

Please see **FLORIDA**, Page A6

■ **MORE ON SHOOTINGS:** A history of school shootings; fire alarms, gunfire pose conundrum for schools, **page A8**.



GERALD HERBERT, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carrie Hernandez, of Coral Springs, places flowers on Saturday under an overpass, at the edge of the crime scene, near Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where students sought shelter after the Wednesday shooting at the school in Parkland, Fla.

DISCOVER
DIGITAL



■ How to help prevent school shootings? Analysis offers 10 ways you can

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